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BHSF Research Matters

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Center for Research

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# Research Matters



Baptist Health South Florida

*Elevating care through discovery.*

April 2020, Vol. 1, Iss. 4

## Message from Noah Zanville, PhD, BSN, BA

Nurse Scientist, Miami Cancer Institute (MCI)

Chair, Nursing/Allied Health Research Council, MCI

Assoc. Ed., *Nursing & Allied Health Research Journal* (ISSN: 2578-3750)

Welcome everyone, to the April issue of *Research Matters*, Baptist Health South Florida's monthly newsletter. This month, we take a decidedly more serious tone as we welcome you to this issue. As of this morning, an astounding 1.86 million cases of the coronavirus virus have been confirmed worldwide, with 19,895 of these cases being right here in Florida.

Of special concern for those of us in the Baptist Health family, 35.1% of Florida's confirmed coronavirus cases have been diagnosed in Miami-Dade County, 14.8% of the Florida's cases are in Broward county, and 8.2% in Palm Beach.

In response, over the past few months, Baptist Health South Florida has taken unprecedented steps to limit the spread of the virus and ensure we can continue to serve our communities. As a result, the majority of you are likely to be reading this month's newsletter from somewhere other than work, having been asked to work from home in an effort to slow the spread of the virus, and protect others.

In addition, over the past few weeks, many of you are likely to have experienced a substantial shift in your research roles. For many of us, with heroic images of front-line staff forefront in our minds, it can be easy to ask ourselves whether research really matters at a time like this? **On the contrary, I would argue that research matters now more than ever.**

In the 11 short weeks since the coronavirus hit our shores in early January, we have been witness to nothing short of a scientific revolution. From the launch of the [Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Map](#), which brings together data from thousands of cities from across the world every day to produce a real-time map of the virus, to databases like [NextStrain.org](#), which is using RNA sequencing data from 53 countries across six continents to show, in breathtaking detail, how the coronavirus evolved from one strain in December to more than eight currently. In addition, since January alone, more than 3,300 research papers have been published on COVID-19, with new manuscripts being published multiples times a day in the rush to share information about the virus.

Efforts to use research to guide our own response to COVID-19 are moving at a thunderous pace, as well, with leaders and staff from every corner of the system using data and research to guide who, how, and when we screen patients and visitors for potential signs of the virus, what sort of protective equipment to use,



*"Imagination is  
the highest form  
of research"*

*-Albert Einstein*

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and how to continue to meet the diverse healthcare needs of our population.

As we continue to move through the pandemic, calm, context, and a clear sense of purpose – all hallmarks of good research – will be essential. With this in mind, the editorial staff at *Research Matters* wanted to share some ways that you and your teams can put your research skills to use in order to help with BHSF's response to COVID-19:

- **Stay Healthy:** First and foremost, your health and safety is our primary concern. Take some time every day to check the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) websites for updates on how to stay healthy. Throughout your day, try to find ways, big and small, to stay healthy, not only physically, but mentally. As always, you are our most valuable resource.
- **Stay Connected:** By now, most of you are no doubt feeling the strain of social distancing as we struggle to stay connected through the pandemic. Make it a point to stay connected to your teams and your leaders.
- **Stay Productive:** While our response to COVID-19 is requiring massive shift in our workforce, our need to perform research that helps improve outcomes for our patients and staff has not. Because of this, one of the simplest things we can do as employees to help during this pandemic is to stay productive! Our productivity now will help minimize disruption to the service lines that depend on us, which will ripple out to the larger communities we serve.
- **Stay Flexible:** As a result of the pandemic, all of us have, and are likely to continue to see, disruptions to our research in the days and weeks to come. These disruptions, which may include changes in how we collect, analyze and share data, delays in funding and research approval, changes in how we disseminate our findings (to name a few) will require an almost yogic level of flexibility on our part to address. Now is the time to showcase that flexibility; work with your leaders and your teams to find ways to adapt and continue to meet your goals.
- **Stay Resourceful:** Several weeks ago, a study published in the [Lancet](#) showed how the authors used the popular messaging app WeChat® to successfully deliver tips to patients who were quarantining at home on how to avoid spreading the virus. In recent weeks, platforms like Zoom™ and Skype™ have gained attention as ways that our providers can continue to care for patients virtually, but these tools may also be helpful for research. In the days to come, work with your teams, your IRB, and your Privacy Officers to think about how you can modify protocols, when possible, to move forward with your research while staying safe.
- **Stay Informed:** As research staff at BHSF, you have a special responsibility to not only stay informed about the coronavirus, but ensure everything you share with others is based on evidence. Because of this, make a point to read at least one article from a peer-reviewed source like [JAMA](#), [The Lancet](#), [Nature](#), and other trusted sources every morning. If you need help accessing these or any other research, your [Medical Librarian](#) or the [Nurse Scientist](#) at your entity can help you. In addition, be sure to follow [Evidence Based Clinical-Care's \(EBCC\) website](#), as well as the Dept. of Nursing and Health Science's Research's Daily Evidence Brief on COVID-19, which you can get from your entity's [Nurse Scientist](#), which both have regular, up to date summaries of research on COVID-19 that and your teams can use.
- **Stay Sharp:** Over the past two months, social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and SnapChat have been taken over by a steady stream of charts and graphs related to COVID-19. As we have learned, these illustrations, once the stuff of stuffy statistics courses, are essential to understanding why social distancing is important, how the virus spreads, and when the peak of the pandemic is likely to hit. Continue to sharpen your statistical skills, and where possible, help those around you understand what the data are (and are not) saying, and as always, be sure to put the numbers into context.

As research staff, you are part of the backbone of our response to the COVID-19. Many of you have been involved in these efforts, big and small, and for that we say a heartfelt thanks – **your work matters, now, more than ever**, and is the very essence of who we are at Baptist Health, so keep moving forward. We will make it through this, together.



# New Staff Updates



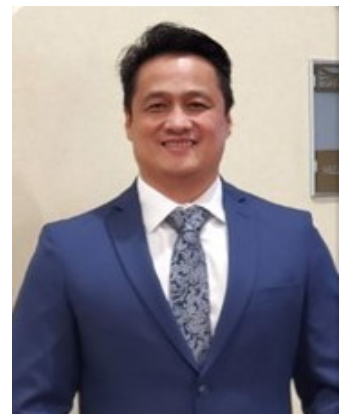
**Marcela Davelouis**

Lab Technical Aide  
MCI PSL & BRF



**Lisa Rosen**

Medical Writer  
MCI CTO



**Primo Rumbaoa, CPhT**

Pharmacy Technician  
MCI CTO



**Joselyn Revilla**

Budget & Contracts Analyst  
MCI CTO



**Grisel Bisbal**

Protocol Activation Coordinator  
MCI CTO





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# MCI ESTABLISHES OWN IRB

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## First Protocol Conditionally Approved



Miami Cancer Institute established its own IRB with the experience and expertise necessary to review the complex and nuanced oncology protocols in an appropriate and timely manner. Its policies were developed by Chief Research Officer Scott Lipkin, DPM. John Diaz, M.D. serves as the IRB Chair with support from Cristina Inciarte and Simmy Lucas as part

of its Human Research Protections Program. The first meeting occurred on Monday, April 6, 2020 and the first protocol was conditionally approved by the board. The next meeting is scheduled on Monday, May 4, 2020.

*-Nicholas Chow, Pharm.D.*

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# COVID-19 RESOURCES

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## Via Library & Knowledge Services Intranet Site

Library Services team is working remotely. To access all library services visit the e-library or send us an e-mail at [library@baptisthealth.net](mailto:library@baptisthealth.net). Visit the Library & Knowledge Services page on the [intranet](#), and scroll to the “What’s New” section for the latest on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Baptist Health continues to follow the latest updates on COVID-19. Information and resources can be found on the [World Health](#)

[Organization website](#), [CDC website](#), [LitCovid](#), [PubMed](#), [Europe PMC](#), [EBSCO](#), [Clinical Key for Nursing](#), [UpToDate](#), [Wolters Kluwer](#), and the [Florida Department of Health](#).



*-Devica Samsundar, MLIS*

## Mondays 12:00 to 1:30 pm

Invite was sent out to Research Operations & Regulatory teams. Certificates provided.

For those off campus, [Join Zoom Meeting](#) (786) 596-7000, Conference ID 790-457-488

Email Amy at [amyst@baptisthealth.net](mailto:amyst@baptisthealth.net) if you are interested and did not receive an invite.



Date	Location	Topic
Monday, April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Online ONLY	COVID-19 Effect on Clinical Research (NEW TOPIC)
Monday, May 11 <sup>th</sup>	MCI 3N110	FDA Audit Preparation
Monday, June 8 <sup>th</sup>	BHM Auditorium	Consent Best Practices
Monday, July 13 <sup>th</sup>	MCI 3N110	Participant Recruitment
Monday, August 10 <sup>th</sup>	BHM Auditorium	Reporting Adverse Events
Monday, September 14 <sup>th</sup>	BHM 5MCVI	How to Conduct a Literature Search
Monday, October 12 <sup>th</sup>	BHM 5MCVI	History of Informed Consent and HIPAA Authorization
Monday, November 9 <sup>th</sup>	BHM 5MCVI	Participant Safety
Monday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	BHM Auditorium	Clinical Trial Monitoring

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

by Nursing & Clinical Research Organizations



MAGI—April 19-22, 2020, Philadelphia, PA **CANCELED**  
 ACRP—May 1-4, 2020, Seattle, WA **NOW VIRTUAL**, thru Apr&May  
<https://2020.acrpnet.org/acrp-2020-virtual>

SOCRA—September 25-27, 2020, Las Vegas, NV  
<https://www.socra.org/annual-conference/2020-conference-information/2020-annual-conference-information/>

Onsemble—October 6-9 2020, Madison, WI  
<https://onsemble.net/conference/>

ANCC Pathway & Magnet—October 7-9 2020, Atlanta, GA  
<https://www.nursingworld.org/ancc/>

MAGI West—November 15-18, 2020, San Francisco, CA  
<https://www.magiworld.org/EventInfo?EVT=49>

## Center for Research

### MISSION

To serve as a research hub for elevating care through discovery for the diverse community we serve by using a shared service model that capitalizes on synergies created through a collaborative intellect.

### VISION

In alignment with the strategic goals of Baptist Health South Florida, and within the context of a sustainable business model, the Center facilitates the development and dissemination of knowledge with the goals of providing continued excellence in patient care for the diverse multicultural community of South Florida.

## Research Compliance Corner

In February, staff from Center for Research attended the 14th Clinical Trial Billing & Compliance Conference. Although many topics were covered, ranging from billing to clinical process improvements, one of the main takeaway sessions covered the regulations governing clinical trial stipends. Many clinical trials provide stipends in various forms (cash, gift cards, etc.) and are seen as a normal part of conducting research. Stipends are standard, but the justification for stipends can put the study in or out of compliance with regulations. Medicare strictly requires all stipends to be tied to study related expenses for the participants. In addition, Medicare strictly prohibits providing stipends tied to the completion of study milestones to refrain from enrolling participants in a study just for services that are payable by Medicare. The Anti-Kickback Statute and Civil Monetary Penalties Law also prohibit providing payments that may influence a participant to receive treatment(s) for items that are payable by Medicare.

Justifiable stipends directly related to additional costs to all participants are allowed for travel and/or lodging, if that money would make the care more accessible to the participant. As an institution, we encourage those that conduct research at BHSF to steer clear of payments that could influence or coerce a participant to enroll in a research study so that we remain compliant with the aforementioned regulations. We also encourage study teams to refrain from using gift cards as payment because it is difficult to trace the funds, which poses a compliance risk. The Center for Research is here as a resource should you need further information regarding clinical trial stipends.



Do you have any questions or topics you would like for us to cover regarding conflicts of interest, compliance review, or billing compliance process? If so, contact us directly for all Research Compliance matters!

Heather Osorio, Research Compliance & Billing Administrator [ResearchCompliance@baptisthealth.net](mailto:ResearchCompliance@baptisthealth.net)

### UPCOMING BHSF IRB DATES

Full Board Committee Meeting: **Tuesday, April 28th**  
Submission Deadline for May Meeting: **Monday, April 27th**

To contribute to this newsletter, please contact Dr. Amy Starosciak at [amyst@baptisthealth.net](mailto:amyst@baptisthealth.net) or x79546.



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**Center for Research**

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